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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	USSR (Black Sea)	REPORT	
SUBJECT	Port of Batumi	DATE DISTR.	14 July 1954
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This is UNEVALUATED Information

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

1. In the early morning of 5 November 1953, about 15 nautical miles from the coast, [] ship reduced speed to enter Batumi harbor at daylight. A guard vessel challenged [] ship by sound signal in Morse code. When [] ship was between five and six nautical miles from the harbor, the running lights of some low-sided, apparently stationary vessels were observed about two or three nautical miles away. One of these vessels approached [] ship to about 500 meters and then followed it to the head of the jetty in the harbor. 25X1
2. Two Soviet guard vessels were berthed at the inner side of the end of the outer mole in Batumi harbor. Each vessel was about 30 meters long and had a raked bow and a square stern. Each vessel had a square bridge and a small round stack, which was not higher than the upper edge of the bridge. The armament on both vessels consisted of one 40-millimeter gun on the foredeck, and a twin machine gun on the bridge. Each vessel was equipped with a small crane on the fantail, and a canvas-covered winch forward. 25X1
3. [] An obsolete Soviet tanker, about 8,000 DWT, was moored at the innermost end of the mole. No destroyers or other naval vessels were observed in the harbor. Some small steamers [] were loading lumber in the southern section of the harbor.
4. A large tank installation, apparently a distilling plant, was located on the petroleum quay on the outer mole opposite the shore. The plant was separated from the town and the harbor by wire fences, and it was guarded by patrols of three soldiers, armed with submachine guns. 25X1
5. After [] ship had berthed, the crew members were superficially examined by a physician and their identities were checked on the basis of their personal documents. The ship was searched by six soldiers, who wore green cap ribbons and carried pistols. The examination on departure was less thorough, as all the ship's tanks were filled. 25X1

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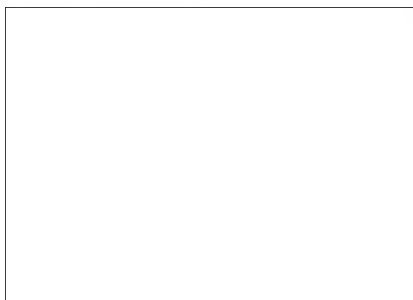
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6. Two wooden watchtowers, about three or four meters high, ~~man~~^{ma}n~~ed~~^{ined} by two soldiers armed with rifles, were located between the town and the harbor. Each watchtower was equipped with a searchlight on an open platform.

7.  a 7,381 GRT steam tanker, loaded its cargo in 48 hours at an hourly average of 150 tons. The oil was pumped aboard through four filling connections. A Soviet tanker, which had six filling connections, loaded its cargo in ten hours.

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8. Shore leave was granted until 2300 hours. The town looked clean, but only a few persons were seen on the streets. Every fourth person was a soldier. All the soldiers had closely cropped hair and wore olive-green uniforms with red-bordered epaulets. Some also had blue-bordered epaulets. The liberty passes were checked twice by two soldiers with green cap ribbons; they were checked at the ship and again on entering the town. Cigarettes, beer, and vodka were available in Batumi. The shops displayed clothes, canned food, and cured and salted fish. The town was poorly illuminated in contrast to the harbor. Almost no passenger cars or trucks were seen in the town.



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